



Echoes of the chimes of our time.

IMPORTANT 2021 CAMP UPDATE INSIDE!!!

itself in many different ways at Camp Billings: love of your new best friend, love of an activity, love of a tradition, love of being challenged, love of our camper's worldly views and, as we've found preparing for this edition...even finding the love of your life!

With love,
Amy Cone Glidden & Meredith Cone
CTT Co-Editors



www.campbillings.org/alumni

Greetings from the Board....

By Michael Lemme, Board President

Planning Forward to a COVID Free World...

Your Board of Directors recently formed a new Camp Re-Opening Committee and in Sean & Anne's Director's report you will be able to read all about the tough pre-planning decisions that had to be made as we plan for the summer of 2021. Although only 2 sessions may be offered for this summer, once the pandemic is behind us, we will be going back to offering 4 sessions as usual. I'd like to take this time to thank all of you who have donated to help see camp through the toughest financial time we've had to endure over the past 115 years. We have a solid core of alumni and your donations have helped offset the \$180,000 loss we have incurred. Even if we can open this summer, it will not be at full capacity, this we know for certain, and our financial losses will still be increasing. As a 501c3 Non Profit camp we pretty much break even after tuition covers expenses. Whatever donation you can possibly make this year will go a long way in helping us get through this and press forward with some of our new long range projects.

With that in mind, let's look forward to the future and I'd like to share the plans we have for both our infrastructure and our programs areas. The need for extra Rainy Day activity space will be addressed as we are in the planning stages of building a large outdoor pavilion over the middle tennis court that is behind Girl's Jr. Row. This will allow for additional activities outdoors and be protected from the rain other than

just Dartt Hall and the Dining Room. Another major project on the horizon will be a brand new kitchen. We cannot overstate how much this is needed. The new kitchen will have a connecting hallway into Dartt Hall which will include two restrooms and a larger, laundry facility. No longer will campers and staff have to run out of the dining room and across the clocktower lawn to use the restrooms, or run out into the rain and into Dartt Hall. The third large scale project we have on the drawing board is to enlarge the present infirmary. We need two new additional bedrooms for our nursing staff and extra bed space for campers. This will be one of the few buildings that will be air conditioned and have two new bathrooms.

Further down the road will be a restored Kozy Nook with an outdoor amphitheater, a new Staff House and a more finished interior for Pinewold and Sunnyside....all of these projects are on camps radar and on our Long Range Planning "Wish List"!

If you are lucky enough to walk through the white gates this summer you will get to see the two newest projects that were completed just prior to the pandemic. We completed the restoration of the Guest House for off-season future rental space (see photos in this issue) and a much needed renovated office, both upstairs and downstairs and the exterior as well.

Here's to hoping that the COVID vaccine will be reaching us all soon and we can get back to what we do best: providing our campers with the

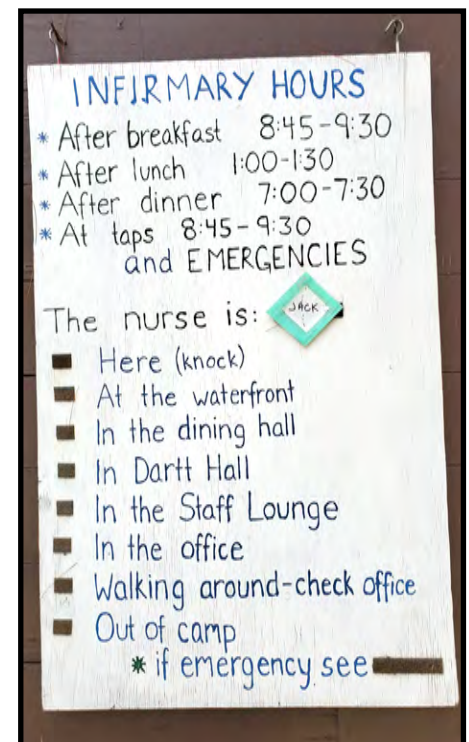


BEST summers they've ever had...and sticking with the theme of this issue: possibly finding the love of their life!

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy holiday season!

Your President, Friend and Fellow Alumni,

-Michael



A Note from CB's Directors, Anne and Sean Collins!

It has been a unique fall for everyone, and as we gear up for winter, it's time to start looking forward to the future. We were so lucky to keep connections alive and spirits high during the summer through our virtual camp platform. The participation was consistent and an absolute delight. We missed all of you so much this past summer, and are hopeful we can see you in 2021. While we of course cannot know what 2021 will look like, we are moving forward with hiring, registration, and planning in the hopes that we can open. We have sent out surveys to our camp families for feedback on different potential scenarios, so that we may plan for all possible situations.

Yesterday, the day before Halloween, we had five inches of snow by the end of the school day. Anne's students built a snowman during a mask break. Sean's students made snowball art. We couldn't help thinking about camp as our students got creative and had fun in the snow. We have both been teaching in hybrid models, going to school four days a week, successfully. It is certainly weird, and a challenge to teach 7 kids in person, while simultaneously teaching 19 kids on Zoom, but being with the students has been the best part of the fall. We have seen first hand that kids are missing their peer connections, and need camp now more than ever.



We have decided to give campers who would have been in the final year as campers in 2020, the opportunity to be campers in 2021, or apply to our CIT program. Because of this unprecedented time, we thought it was important to give campers, like we do in program area, a choice. We have included the latest registration information below:

As we continue to endure 2020, we must look forward with positivity and hope for summer 2021, for we still have much to be thankful for within the camp community. We are doing everything we can to create as normal a Camp Billings' experience as possible. We are working closely with our registrar, health officials, other camps, and our board in order to give us the best opportunity for reopening in some capacity for summer 2021.

In the past, registration has always opened on December 1. Due to the challenges and changes this year, registration will be opening on FEBRUARY 1st. We have a reopening committee that meets every other week to discuss further developments in policy and procedures, restrictions, and opportunities when it comes to the likelihood of opening camp. We have decided to hold off on opening registration as we wait for further changes and a possible vaccine. The distribution and recipients of that vaccine will greatly determine how we are able to run a safe camp. We want the time between now and February 1st to be a time for you to organize, plan, and decide what you and your family can do this summer. **Until February 1, we ask you to recognize some of our plans may be subject to change as the situation demands.** Because of the unprecedented circumstances, camp will operate in a very different way than it has in the past:

- We are offering only two sessions. One session for four weeks, and one for three weeks. We are limiting ourselves to only ONE changeover.
- Camp will operate at 70%, with 123 total campers per session as previously recommended by the Vermont Board of Health.
- There will be no 2-week sessions available.
- Campers are eligible to come to camp for one session only, in order to give the most number of campers the opportunity to enjoy Billings.

2021 CAMP DATES & RATES

First session will run from June 27th to July 25th (a total of four weeks) at a cost of \$3,400.00

Second session will run from July 29th-August 19th (a total of three weeks) at a cost of \$2,550.00

We understand the expense and time duration is greater than under normal circumstances, and we implore you to understand these are TEMPORARY and NECESSARY changes to operating camp safely. Your campers' and our staff's safety is the most important thing to us, and we will only open camp if that safety is ensured.

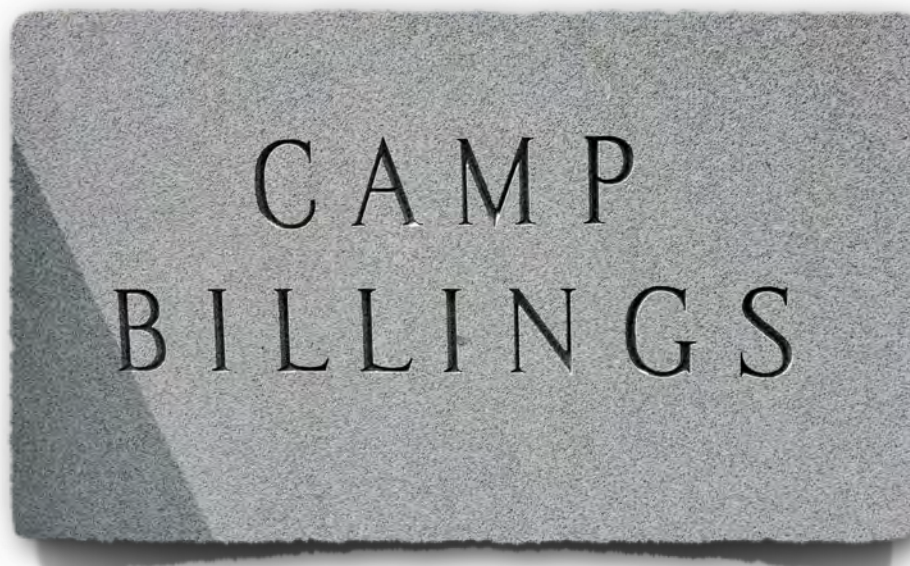
If you were registered for last year, please take the following action based on what you decided to do with your registration deposit:

- 1. If you rolled over your deposit for Summer 2021. Email Marianne to tell her your preferred session. Your spot is secure.** registrar@campbillings.org
- 2. If you donated your deposit from Summer 2020. Email Marianne to tell her your preferred session. Your spot is secure, but you must contact Marianne.** registrar@campbillings.org
- 3. If you canceled your registration and got a refund for Summer 2020. Contact Marianne to secure a spot and tell her your preferred session.** registrar@campbillings.org
- 4. If you rolled over OR donated and do NOT want to come to camp in 2021, contact Marianne and tell her to cancel holding you a spot.** registrar@campbillings.org

In the meantime, do what you can to keep Billings in your life. Put on a Zoom Battle of the Bands with your friends, build a Clocktower out of snow, call cleaning your room 'cabin cleanup,' or annoy your parents by singing songs and banging on the table - just kidding... We wish more than ever to open camp, but must remain diligent, pragmatic, and safe in our decisions. We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe as we navigate this time together.

Please do not hesitate to contact the directors or Board of Directors with any questions. We greatly appreciate your flexibility, patience, and loyalty to Camp Billings. We love and miss you all and hope to see you in Summer 2021. Stay safe in the coming months, and Happy Holidays to you all!

--Anne and Sean



CABINS FOR RENT!!!

We are opening up Camp for rentals starting the spring of 2021!

(We will not be renting to large groups like weddings, or company retreats)

Please look on campbillings.org (rentals) for available dates.

WeOwnIt

- The cabin comfortably sleeps 4 (king upstairs/full downstairs) with the ability to sleep two more in the living area.
- There is a gas grill for your use on the porch.
- The bathroom is located on the first floor. It offers a shower/tub, sink and toilet.
- Spacious lakeside porch.
- WeOwnIt also comes with a small private dock in a beautiful cove.



The Guest House (Just completed)

- The cabin has beds for 6 people with the ability to sleep a couple more in the open spaces (king, queen sleeper, and bunk beds).
- It has two full bathrooms (shower, toilet, and sink).
- The Guest House has a large upper deck.
- It also comes with a beautiful screened in porch.

Other Amenities

- Both cabins have air/heating units as well as beautiful fireplaces.
- The kitchens come fully equipped, and all linens and bath towels are included.
- Renters have access to the tennis courts, basketball courts and soccer/softball field.
- Fishing is outstanding along the camp shoreline.



Rates

- Our 2021 rate is \$1,500 per week.
- A 9% VT Rooms and Meals tax will be added to the rate.
- We do request a \$500 security deposit for each cabin.
- A week begins Sunday at 5PM and ends the following Sunday at 10AM.

Josh & Annie (Vallieres) Novis



We wish we could say that we first fell in love when we saw each other across the clocktower lawn at colors on our first day at camp, but that would be too perfect a story.

We were friends and fellow campers and then CIT's, and finally counselors together. Initially, we had set our eyes on each other's friend and so we became the messengers in that teenage game of courtship. As the days went on, we spent more and more time together talking on the green benches and finding excuses to visit each other at our respective program areas. It soon became clear that our interests had shifted and one evening, in the summer of '94, we kissed next to the Waterski Dock after Row duties.

At the end of each memorable summer on Lake Fairlee, with countless nights at the Boat Dock or playing cards in the dining hall under the rain, and our annual participation in the 4th session senior backpacking trip, we would say goodbye and communicate with phone calls, letters, and even visits to each other in either Quebec or New Hampshire throughout the year. Then, upon returning to camp in June, our relationship would rekindle only a couple days into camp, and we would share our time at camp together. This seasonal ritual continued every summer, even when Josh moved to Oregon for college and the distance and time difference made it even harder to stay in touch outside camp.

Josh spent his Junior year of college in Africa on an exchange program. Annie, with the help of Josh's parents, surprised him at the airport upon his return.

Since that day, we've been inseparable partners and best friends. That next year, after completing her university degree, Annie joined Josh in Oregon. Six short weeks later, Annie received a highly anticipated job offer in Montreal and so with mixed emotions, she moved back to Quebec. In the summer of 2000, Josh moved to Montreal to attend McGill University, and thus a Student Visa secured his status in Canada. Two years later, in the summer of 2002, we were married at a secluded log cabin in Northern Quebec with our immediate family. Two weeks after that we were married officially on the banks of the river that ran behind Josh's parent's house. Many of our guests were our Billings family, who remain our closest friends today.

We still live in Montreal and Josh is now a Canadian Citizen and speaks French. We've been married for 18 years and have two lovely daughters. Our oldest, Juliette, is, as we write this, the same age we were when we first met as campers. She has attended camp since she was 9. Our youngest, Lillian, was supposed to spend her first two weeks at camp this summer.

We're confident that we speak for all the Camp couples when we say that not a day goes by that we don't appreciate how special it is to share the love of Billings as partners. It's a truly special thing to share such an important part of our individual identities as a couple as well. We have known each other as teenagers, as adults, as partners, as parents, and as best friends. Thank you, Camp Billings. We love the role you have played and continue to play in our lives together!



Willie & Beth (Freitas) Crocker



We met the summer of 1997 which was Willie's first summer at camp ever! Willie (21 years old) was the archery counselor and Beth (22 years old) visited camp frequently while running her Mom's, Anne Freitas, day care in Newton, MA. We spent many hours together that first summer before Willie went home to KY for school.



Not too many months later Willie missed Beth so much 😊 that he moved from KY to MA and spent the winter & spring in MA before we both returned to camp as staff. The summer of 1998 brought much celebration when Willie proposed during a day off together in Waterville Valley, NH. When we got back to camp, Larry Drew and Beth's parents (Anne and John Freitas) announced our engagement in the dining hall to the whole camp which was a wonderful and overwhelming experience. Although, we think Larry may have been more excited than we were! After a long 2-year engagement, we were married in August 2000 at Camp Billings surrounded by family and friends. We lived in Louisville, KY for 4+ years before returning to Newton, MA where Beth grew up. We now live in Framingham, MA where the boys have spent their childhood enjoying school, swimming, outdoor activities and robotics – and we are both there cheering them on for all their accomplishments.



Now, 20+ years into our marriage, camp is still an integral part of our lives. After some year's hiatus, Willie has been working as staff every summer since 2012 when CJ (15 years old) started as a day camper. Ben (12 years old) started in 2015 as a day camper. Both boys live and breathe camp and we are so happy that they care about and love camp as much as we do. Beth is a member of the camp Board of Directors and visits camp during the summer as often as possible. We all love to be at camp and enjoy the activities that it has for us – whether it's as a camper (CJ and Ben), staff member (Willie) or visitor (Beth). We've even tried to create some "camp" at our home with a Tetherball pole, campfires and dessert after every meal (haha – CJ and Ben wish!).



We look forward to seeing and catching up with our fellow alumni at the next Reunion in 2022!!



Shane & Perrin (Cothran) Chick

I get two very distinct comments when I share our couple story. Many will say "I cannot believe you met your husband at a summer camp when you were in the 4th grade." And then other people say "of course you married someone from your beloved summer camp...."

So, yes, Quackenbush did capture Shane and I being in the same place, at the same time, way back in 1984. Though Shane and I have overlapping experiences and common friend groups, our story is not that we met in fourth grade, instantly connected, and dated all the way through until we married. In fact, I think I didn't even like him in fourth grade and found him annoying since he was that kid who avoided some swimming lessons and threw pinecones at people from the rock. Back in 1984, I spent my time at the tennis and on the waterfront, while Shane spent his time in the backpacking shed. We were like two ships always passing. In middle school, I started going for first and second session, just as he started going for a month's time opposite of me during third and fourth session. The summer I decided to go for the whole summer, he was off to Alaska on a Camp road trip. And just about the time when I became first a CIT, then a counselor and eventually even the CIT director, Shane decided it was time for a Camp Billings break. My last year officially at camp was 2000. Shane returned back at Billings in 2001.

It's not technically until a 2001 NYC camp reunion that we actually connected. I clearly remember talking with Shane about his adventures to Australia (to visit camp people) that overlapped my visit to Australia (to visit different camp people) by one day.

There were a few letters over that winter and Shane even came for a quick weekend visit to my place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire between finishing up his season at Okemo and starting another season of Camp.

After that fun weekend, I quite clearly remember declaring that it time to move past camp Billings as my source of entertainment and refuge and focus on being "an adult" but only after I went up to pre-camp one more time "to help".

Obviously, that didn't go as I planned. I did continue to visit camp during that summer. I dated people from the real world, Shane had camp romances, but there was a connection. As it turns, out Billings was not the only thing we had in common. We were both in the same Western Mass. orchestra during middle school, just opposite sides of the stage. There are many times we were both at Okemo Mountain without realizing it, since he was working and I was skiing. And there were conversations about the intersection of art and science that lasted into the wee hours of the evening.

After the 2020 Camp season ended, Shane came again for a visit to New Hampshire before going back to work at Okemo and focusing on the real world.. That quick weekend visit turned into us living together in a house that had 8 crazy people in it (all campy people but from different camps). Shane and I threw some pretty big camp parties that fall. I remember hosting a Friends-giving with 20 plus people. We hosted so many Camp people for Josh and Annie's wedding that people were even using the dog bed as a place to sleep.

We eventually moved out on our own. Shane went back for another summer at Billings in 2003. Though I was working at the Seacoast Science Center in NH then, I often commuted to the coast from Vermont two to three times a week.

But the best details of our camper couple story came at the close of 2003 Billings season. As the story goes, Shane called my dad from the Fairlee Laundromat to ask for my hand in marriage. And then at the closing campfire Shane, who is working as the maintenance guy then, stood up to give the Maintenance Award but instead dropped to a knee in front of 250 people and asked me to marry him.

Our wedding was in October of 2004. We were so fortunate to have so many camp friends attend. Fresh and Ben Cheney were in our wedding party. Jay Lance created and sang a song for us. There are just many fun Camp stories from that weekend event.

We have continued many a Camp tradition through the years, most notably we host Christmas-in-July festivities every year and are always "singing" camp songs during road trips.

In 2017 we passed the torch to our daughter Mia and now we live vicariously through her Billings experiences.

Collectively, and it is still growing, we have had 27 summers At "Our Dear Old Camp".

Ryan & Anne (Hebert) Coppola



The year was 2006. I was 30 years old and I was going through a very difficult time of my life. I was living and working in Montreal at the time and I was finding being a new mum extremely challenging. I was also struggling to come to terms with the fact that my 7 year marriage was over. I was in the middle of a separation, a motherhood crisis and let's be honest; I was a total mess!



The invitation for alumni to attend the 100 year celebration of Camp Billings came along like a breath of fresh air! It was an opportunity to forget about my current misery and just enjoy life for a weekend like I did in my youth on the shores of Lake Fairlee, joyful and carefree! For that special weekend, I had in mind a blast from the past! I never expected to encounter my future...

Off we drove across the border on this familiar road from a time when going to camp was the highlight of my summer! The beautiful scenery between home and Lake Fairlee reminded me how lucky we are to live in such great countries! A little positive thought that might have set the scene for more positivity to come into my life.

The celebrations were so much fun! Camp was only a week away for campers so 2006 staff members were also part of that weekend and Ryan the Australian was about to be initiated at a camp fire! That is when I "spotted him"; a charming Aussie accent, green piercing eyes and a gorgeous smile! I found him later on for a chat and the weekend ended with emails exchanged and an invitation to visit Montreal during his break between sessions.



It wasn't long before Ryan the Australian showed up in Montreal and spent the weekend with me. Then I got to know a smart future engineer who had been selected to attend University of California, Berkley... No where near Montreal... But strong feelings, impossible to ignore, had already emerged. The distance didn't deter us. Neither did the age difference (I am 8 years older) or the fact that I was a mother to a very energetic 2 year old named Roman. There were a few red eye flights between the East and the West coast until Ryan had to return to Australia in January 2007 to complete his last year of uni. These were crazy months! I don't think either of us knew what had hit us; it was Cupid's arch of course.

In 2007, the reality of a much greater distance set in; a geographical distance as well as a distance in the stages of our lives. I was a full time working single mum, in my 30's, still trying to get my life in order. He was a university student, in his early 20's, about to graduate with honours with many offers from around the world to launch his career! We didn't see each other for a whole year and I actually didn't expect to see him again. I was very aware that a good catch like Ryan might slip away from me so I was simply grateful for his passage into life at the time.



The employment offers did come flooding from Abu Dhabi to the desert of Western Australia, Singapore and eventually... Canada. At the end of 2007, Ryan informed me he had accepted the offer to work on the construction of a bridge in the Vancouver area. This was a 1 year contract and his first job as a graduate engineer. We agreed to see each other in Montreal in January 2008 before his start date on the job. Within a few months, I had quit my permanent government job and moved to Vancouver with Roman, now 3.

It seemed like a crazy move to a lot of people, both for Ryan and myself, but sometimes you just know and you just have to trust your intuition. Ryan had written a letter to my parents, met my son's father and explained to all how serious he was about us, about taking good care of us and making sure we would do our best to make this work.



What a year it was in Vancouver! Roman had to learn English, go to a new kindergarten while I was looking for work. Ryan was experiencing for the first time life as a working engineer. He was on a graduate salary caring for a young family all the while becoming a dad to Roman and partner with me. There were ups and downs of course but I have fond memories of that foundation year between us.

Then the infamous GFC hit! For those who don't remember, this was the global financial crisis of 2008. I did not find a job and Ryan's contract was not renewed after 2008. It is that turning point which took us Down Under where we have been living since 2009. We lived in Brisbane (Queensland), Alice Springs and Darwin (Northern Territory) and now in Townsville (Queensland). Ryan's career (and mine) has never stopped to grow and the family has grown too! -) Roman is now 16, with a charming Aussie accent and has 2 little sisters; Sofia (8) and Elena (6). The kids have visited Quebec a few times and feel a strong connection to Canada.

I never thought I would live this far from the motherland and as hard as it is at times to be away from family and friends, I am truly grateful and feeling blessed to have met Ryan and created this fulfilling life together with him. I am also grateful to Roman's father who has unselfishly agreed to us leaving for a new life in Australia.

A younger yet more mature beautiful soul came into my life, took my hand when I needed it the most and together we fly ever since. It's been the most wonderful ride! And it all started at Camp Billings, summer 2006.



John & Jenn (Scannell) Lisak

We are always amazed to hear the story of how people make it to Camp Billings. So many find their way there because of sibling, parent or grandparent. We (Jenn & Sak) made it to Billings by just dumb luck.

I (Sak) was walking across a freezing, snow covered Manchester College campus in Indiana on a very cold December day in 1980 and was thinking I can not go back to my old summer job in the hospital kitchen where you can't even open the windows. I made my way to the college career center and started looking at job openings at summer camps. My only qualification was that I just finished a one semester .5 PE elective in Archery. That next March Uncle Ralph called and offered me the Archery position at Camp Billings....so I drove to Vermont to start a new adventure in June 1981.

I (Jenn) found Camp Billings in a far different way. Being from Baldwin, Long Island (really it's Long Island) I pretty much spent most of my summers at the ocean. But one day my mother over heard our dentist talking about how his sons go to Camp Billings in Vermont for the summer. My mother thought, if the place is good enough for the dentist sons, then it's good enough for Jenn. So in the summer of 1977 I went to Camp Billings because of my dentist.

Now fast forward to June 30th, 1984. Saturday night after taps several staff were going to Bonnie Oaks on Lake Morey to hear a band (borderline punk) called The Pinheads. They had one song that was fairly popular around the Vermont bar/club scene called "Be A Good Citizen." After being there for a few hours listening to music and indulging in carbo loading, Jenn and I some how "hooked up", (in the 80's it meant something far different than what it means today). Not sure how it happened since I (Sak) am a total wallflower. Honestly Jenn most likely dragged me out onto the dance floor. After the show ended at 1am, we drove back together to Camp Billings. At the stop sign at the corner of Lake Morey Road E and Lake Morey Road W....we looked at each other in the moonlight...we kissed. That started our Camp Billings romance. In the early morning hours of July 1, 1984. Five years to the day we got married, July 1, 1989. We celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary this summer and equally important is that our 36 year Billings romance continues on.



Darif & Sally (Elliot) Krasnow

We met as staff at Camp Billings in 2004 and fell in love through roasted marshmallows, canoe trips and starry skies over Lake Fairlee. We traveled the world, worked and studied on the west coast and got married in 2014. Since then we returned to New England and are raising a toddler who is bound for Billings in a few short years.



West Lebanon Laundromat circa 2003



Casey & Marianne (St-Laurent) Huling

In 2006, I was living in one of the coolest neighborhoods in Montreal. My sister, Jasmine, lived only a few blocks away, and we both worked for an educational touring agency called Jumpstreet Tours. Jasmine and I spent most of our time together.

When Jasmine finished her Masters degree, she wanted to have a party. So, in her usual fashion - she threw a party in her tiny apartment and invited everyone in her email address book. I had promised to go, of course. But, the night of the party, I was returning from one of the hardest tours I ever had to lead. So I called Jas and tried to bail. But Jasmine would not hear of it. She said: "Well you have to come at least say hi to someone." She passed the phone to Casey Huling.

Casey and I knew each other fairly well at this point. Despite the 8 year age difference, we both had remained employed at camp so long that we were in the same group of friends. In fact, in 2003, Casey, Brad Annakin, Tyler Gardner and I were inseparable. So when I heard Casey's voice on the phone, it was very clear that I was going to have to make an appearance.

When I got to Jasmine's party, I fully intended to stay for One hour. Casey opened the door for me when I arrived, and Jasmine came jumping out of her room like a Jack-In-The-Box. She gave me a hug and turned to Casey and said: "Isn't my sister beautiful?" This was not the first time that Jasmine said this to Casey - and Casey's usual response was: "My sister is beautiful, too." But not this time. This time, he looked right at me and said: "Yes, she is." My face burned. I could not find words to utter.

This would be a good time to mention that when I was 14 and in Cabin 2, Casey and Lucas N. were the buglers. Amy Cone was my Sr. Counselor. My best friend Karine was Obsessed with Lucas. I also had a crush on Lucas. But one night, after Casey played a perfect version Taps, I turned to Karine and told her that actually, I thought Casey was cuter.... Then in 1999, I was 17 and Casey was my CIT director. During one of our CIT meetings, I turned to my then best friend Leony Lemay and confessed that I had a sizable crush on Casey... She told me to go for it! But sadly, he was taken. So, when Casey Huling looked into my eyes and said I was beautiful, I died.

There may as well have only been the two of us at this party, because Casey and I only talked to each other the whole night. At least that is how I remember it. He went home to Thetford the next day. We did not contact each other again.... Until the 100th CB Reunion. It was as if no time had passed. We were, once again, inseparable. We spent the summer together and by the end of the 2006 season, Casey and I were in a long distance relationship!

We did the Long Distance thing that first year, and it worked out pretty well. In 2007, we worked together in the CB kitchen. He was head cook, and I was his sous. I am sure I don't need to tell anyone how hard that was. But nevertheless, in October of 2007, he proposed at the top of Mount Royal in Montreal. The following summer, we worked together in the kitchen again, but this time I was running the dish room and dining room. Of course, we had been trying to plan our wedding, but we kept running into obstacles, so we stopped planning. Over the summer, we learned that eloping is not against the law.

One afternoon during 3rd session, Casey asked me to come with him to buy some Tofu for the vegetarian meal. He also asked me to bring my passport. On the way back from the store, we stopped off at the Thetford Town Hall. We purchased a marriage license for 50 dollars. We looked down the list of Justices of the Peace. Wendy Cole was the first person we called. No Answer. Next was Mike Brown. (Who would end up being the school bus driver for our kids). No answer. He called back 1 minutes later, He was available. He invited us over to his house. He has a large parcel of land. We showed up in our camp clothes. Casey and his clogs. Me in a mini skirt and CB t-shirt. Mike read some words from a binder. I cannot remember what it said. He both said "I do" and that was it! Mike's daughter was there to witness. She took 3 very low resolution pix and offered us a glass of white wine to cheers!



On our way back to camp, Casey and I decided not to tell anyone so that we could have a proper wedding. But the minute we drove into camp, and I saw Anne Hartman and Meredith Cone walking by, we jumped out of Casey truck and yelled "GUESS WHAT WE JUST DID!!!". The secret was out. During dinner, our friend Tor Parker made an announcement in the Dining hall that Casey and I had gotten married. By the time dinner was wrapping up, Casey and I were Jumping Around The Room for getting married.

That's not all. The end of session dance was that night. And it was on the ClockTower Lawn (because, Musical). So there we were. On the Clocktower Lawn, on our wedding night, having a dance party with 250 people. And yes, we danced to Ripples... It was magical. :) The rest is history.



Sean & Anne (Hartman) Collins

Although we've both been coming to camp since 1997, we never met until 2005, because we always went to different sessions. We became friends when I asked Anne to borrow her iPod. Now, an iPod is a device that existed before iPhones that had one function--to play music. I heard through the grapevine that Anne had dozens of Frank Sinatra songs on her iPod, so I asked her if I might borrow it and copy her music. (This was something you could and would do often with your friends). I should mention I also had a crush on Anne, and this was a pathway to friendship. Anne was slightly hesitant to give up her iPod to me, especially as I was going on days off, but she seemed delighted that a fellow Sinatra fan was on staff with her. She ultimately agreed. I would soon make a startling discovery. While looking through her music, I found that Anne had a staggering amount of Genesis and Phil Collins music--not considered particularly "cool" for a 17-year-old girl in 2005. We are talking 100 + songs. As much as I, too, was a fan of the band, Genesis, I was well aware of the probable embarrassment she would feel upon learning of my exploration of her music. A person's music collection is sacred. You couldn't just tell Siri what to play, or Shazam a song and know what to download immediately. It was a curated, tedious, and deliberate process to grow your music collection. After successfully extracting the songs I wanted for myself, I did the unthinkable and accidentally erased all the music on Anne's iPod. I was terrified to return from days off with Anne's iPod wiped clean.

While I will never forget losing all of Anne's music, I cannot say I remember her reaction to such a shock. All I know is we became fast friends and ultimately fell in love. Over the subsequent years, I have snuck Sinatra and Genesis songs into camp dances, Battle of the Bands, and Country Fair. Last summer we even had our first official Phil Collins's Night. We plan on dancing to Genesis, Frank, and Phil for many years to come.





HELLO FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE!



SPECIAL REQUEST

Dear Camp Family,

When the bugle blows at Camp Billings for colors, we gather for a time-honored ceremony that has meaning and value. We assemble as a camp family to salute the start and end of the day with the raising and lowering of the flag. The bugle blows now because as a camp we need your help, and as a family we're counting on you!

We sent a letter earlier this fall asking for donations to secure Camp Billing's financial future. The pandemic has had serious economic implications for us and we are concerned about camp's future.

If you haven't already, and are in a position to do so, please make a gift to camp so that campers, families and staff can experience Billings for generations to come. Each and every donation, regardless of amount, makes a difference. If you are unable to lend financial support at this time, we hope that you can help us spread the word.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

-The Fundraising Committee

ALUMNI UPDATES

Tura Hammarstrom Dickert (camper from 1965-69 and staff in 1976) is the mom of Kait and Tim, who also went to camp. Her dad and uncle attended camp and the infirmary is dedicated to her aunt! She writes, "Remembering Billings with fondness. Oh, that pine air and cold lake water! Uncle Charlie, Uncle Ralph, the clock tower, the Clock Tower Times..." **Henry Lang** graduated from Northwestern and is teaching 12th grade English in Winnetka, IL, for his MEd license. After virtual camp and long weekends of weed whacking with Sheenie, Henry (and Johnny) can't wait for camp's return...even if the bugle scares off the loons! **Catherine Ferron Tremblay** writes, "my parents sent me to Billings in 2000 so that I could learn English. I chose to go back year after year because Camp quickly became my best childhood memory. From the lasting friendships to the first taste of independence, I believe Billings is the perfect place to grow. Being the waterski director in 2007 was a dream come true. Wakeboarding at the 2016 reunion with a camper whom I had initiated to waterskiing 10 years before was simply unreal! I feel so blessed to have once crossed the white gates." **Steven Mignano** currently owns a small business called Mile High Party Time in Denver, Colorado. "I rent inflatable bounce castles, water slides, and obstacle courses! I started the company 2 years ago and it's been a good slow steady build. Covid definitely hurt my business a lot, but it's starting to come back now. I have a Facebook and Instagram account under the same name Mile High Party Time!" Steven was a camper from Cabin 7 through Cabin 15, between 2000-2008. He was a CIT for two years in backpacking and fishing! Steven's mom Jennifer Mignano also went to Camp.



Jason Greenberg shares, "Here was my Cabin #10 Photo, from 1984! (Dave Yanko was Sr. Counselor & I was CIT) For some reason we all thought it would be a good idea to stage it under "the Cat" (catamaran boat). I'm sure parents were glad to get a photo of their kid's head about 6" above water (NOT!), but we knew we were legendary and earned great buzz among the campers...so WORTH IT!"



"CB camper, Erik Levin, shared this cabin photo with me from the summer before in 1983. In this one the narrative is how the campers are "rascals, rogues and scamps" or similar and I'm catching them sneaking out of the girls shower (as evidenced by my finger wagging). This plan took about 2 hours of discussion and planning amongst the cabin mates as I recall; we were dedicated to the best possible photo outcome with a complex narrative structure & backstory. Clearly all our hard work shows here...😄"

Jason Greenberg is still in contact to this day with all the good friends he made at CB those years (1979-1985) incl: Warren Cohen, Price Waldman, Chip Henderson, Marlene Davis, Ellen Smith, Nanette Van Villet, Joey Curtis, Anton Malko, Ari Weinstein, Vernon & Nina Silver, Kyle & Paul Strobe, and more... They have all connected again at camp in reunions as they sent their kids (2nd generation CB campers!) to CB over the last 5-7 years. "Being a CB-er is truly a lifelong Loving relationship!"

REMEMBERING DON CARMICHAEL

Don Carmichael 1937-2020

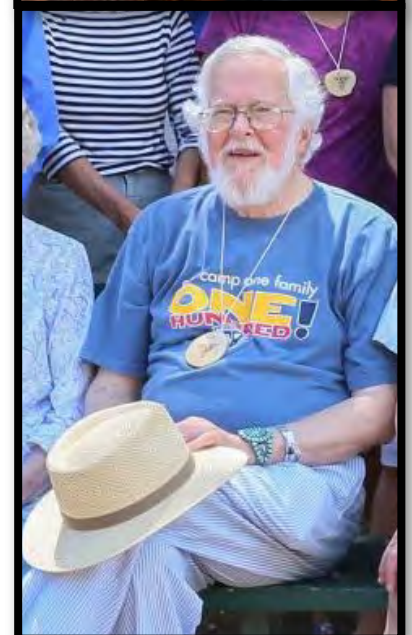
We are sad to share the news that Don Carmichael has recently passed away. Don was all things Camp Billings: a camper, a counselor and a Board member.

Starting in 1949 as a camper and then in the 1950's and early 1960's as a counselor, Don was an active participant in camp activities. In the 1950's he assisted Albert Fletcher opening camp, from dawn to dusk, non-stop for 7 days! His responsibilities were the tennis program, camp maintenance and cabin counselor. Don worked effortlessly to upgrade the physical condition of the structures and facilities as well.

His love and energy for camp never wavered over the years and Don was invited by Ralph Lawrence to be on the Board of Directors where he served from 1999-2009. He was President of the Board for two years where he focused on updating the functioning of the board through better organization. He was responsible for creating a precise historical log for Billings that we are very fortunate to have filed in our office today - investigating historical surveys, deeds and title history of the Camp Billings property. Don even completed a fascinating geological history of Lake Fairlee and the Billings property.

A lawyer by profession, his contributions to Camp Billings over these years have been a major factor in the camp's success today. In April of 2013, in recognition of, and appreciation of, his five decades of Camp Billings support, Don was awarded the Officer Emeritus Award, making him a board member for life.

Over the years, Don shared letters and emails with Mike Lemme, current Board President, about his excitement in seeing how camp's infrastructure and program areas were still growing and...changing. Don Carmichael's hard work, commitment and love for Billings will live on forever. He will most certainly be missed!



Camp Billings 115th Alumni Reunion

IMPORTANT UPDATE

NOW 2022

Save the (new) Date:

Camp Billings 115th (plus 1 year) Alumni Reunion

June 2022 (exact dates to be confirmed)

We want to focus all of our energy and attention on the 2021 summer for campers, so we are postponing the 115th Reunion from June 2021 out one year to June 2022. We love the camp alumni and want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to travel and attend, so moving it out one year will better allow that for everyone. We will have some fun virtual reunion activities planned for June 2021 so stay tuned!

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to seeing everyone in June of 2022!

- The Alumni Committee

The tans fade.... but memories last forever

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Vice President - **Bob Green**, Pompano Beach, FL

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